



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: June 8, 2006

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chair Harvey Klein (GSL) called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Mark Feitelson (Precision Analytical Services) moved that the May meeting minutes be approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) stated the EPA Office of Solid & Hazardous Waste has removed from the list of required waste characteristics Reactive Cyanide and Reactive Sulfide (Published in the Code Federal Register (CFR)). The NJ DEP OQA will no longer certify for these methods. The methods may still be requested by out of state site remediation or waste disposal facilities as uncertified methods. The NJ Site Remediation and Solid Waste programs require analysis certification for Total Cyanide and Total Sulfide.

Dr. Mike Miller stated the 6th version of OQA QAM 025 will be published on the OQA website bulletin board the week of May 15th. The effective date for the new version will be 9/1/06. There are currently 8 labs certified for the method. All certified labs will receive a memo regarding the method update and have 30 days (10/1/06) to submit a revised SOP. The new version has been reformatted to mimic the SW-846 format. There is a tracking sheet at the end of the method listing the changes. Harvey Klein (GSL) asked if 418.1 is still being used. Dr. Miller stated NJDEP will not remove 418.1 until the EPA removes the method 413.1 from the CFR. Steve Reduker (IAL) asked if the TPH state regulatory limit will change when 418.1 is eliminated. Gary Czock (NJDEP-SRWM) stated the NJDEP currently has a petroleum products subcommittee which is studying the establishment of new health based regulatory levels based upon the carbon range of the petroleum product. Sharon O'Toole (Mid-Atlantic Environmental Laboratories) asked if the NJDEP OQA will be certifying for ethanol and if there will be a regulatory limit for ethanol. Dr. Miller stated certification will be via method 8015D and Gary Czock stated he believes there will be upcoming interim limits.

PT Program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated the letter sent regarding the DMR QA study did not include mention of PTs for Nitrite and Settleable Solids. If a client has these parameters on a discharge permit, laboratory certification and PT analysis must be performed. The PT provider website has additional information. WW PTs will be sent on June 12, 2006. Within 72 hours of sample receipt any broken or missing samples must be reported. ERA is only obligated to replace broken PTs within the first 72 hours. SHW results are due at midnight 6/8/06. SHW aqueous results were due on June 1, 2006. Drinking water PTs will be sent on July 1, 2006. Invoices for the October SHW PTs will be sent the beginning of August. The SHW October PTs will be low concentration for VOAs (not the ready to use high concentration).

NELAC/INELA Update: INELA will meet in August in Kansas City. INELA has completed the 1st draft of a new standard to be voted on in July (accept, accept w/comment, reject). The regulations will be addressed in Kansas City and the Final Draft will be addressed at the annual meeting in February 2007. (ISO 17025 is the underlying document.) If adopted by NELAC, it becomes the NELAC standard in July 2007.

Harvey Klein (GSL) commented that A2LA will be replacing NIST as the PTOB/PTPA. As of July 1 2006, only ERA and RTC are A2LA approved PT providers (NJDEP utilizes ERA).

NJQLs: Harvey Klein (GSL) stated the ACIL Federal Advisory Committee regarding MDLs has published a pertinent article at www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/det.

Bioassay: No report.

Sludge (Biosolids): Tony Pilawski (NJDEP-BPR) sent an email to the ELAC membership requesting guidance/peer review regarding the Sludge Sampling and Analysis Guidance Manual currently being developed. The first two issues are: 1) sample size for metals analysis; 2) Arsenic and Selenium methodology.

Communications and OQA Website: Marty Hackman (NJDEP-OQA) stated all ELAC minutes (until May 2006) and the NJQL Subcommittee recommendations will be posted on the OQA website soon.

Old Business

PWTA Update/Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Mike DiBalsi (NJDEP-OQA) stated there are a few problems with the E2 forms: Companies are placing the lab name on both forms; Companies are not registering on-line prior to submitting data. He further explained that registration is a 5 step process: 1) register on-line; 2) complete the paper registration forms; 3) Obtain DEP Administrator approval; 4) Obtain a PIN #; 5) submit data. The first form is to have the Administrator approved by the DEP. The second form is for the certifier/preparer. Mark Feitelson (Precision Analytical Services) asked if the system is currently working. Mike DiBalsi stated not completely. Currently a few labs have been accepted.

John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) stated the EQUISS database will continue running until the new system is fully operational. John further stated a lab needs a log-in PIN (Password) and an upload PIN.

Harvey Klein (GSL) stated he still believes larger water systems will be concerned that they are unable to review data prior to upload to the NJDEP. Phil Royer (NJDEP-BLDM) stated the EPA CROMER Rule (Cross Media Electronic Reporting Rule) desires to have data transferred electronically directly to the ultimate user (EPA) to ensure complete data integrity using an electronic trail. Laura Vancho (NJAW) stated that she agrees that only labs can approve lab data, but there must be a procedure for handling discrepancies since compliance is still the responsibility of the water suppliers. Noncompliance results in violations, fines, public notice, loss of licenses, and/or legal action. Current regulatory procedures that exist

for paper submittals should be translated to electronic reporting in the event of errors, which can and do happen. These issues have yet to be addressed.

John Shevlin stated the EPA (w/Stevens Inst.) has posted a new document for Point of Use/Point of treatment guidance devices which may be found on the EPA website.

Linda Bonnette (NJDEP/BSDW) requested a change in the May ELAC meeting minutes. On page 3, 4th paragraph add “and will be handled on a case-by-case basis”. Laura Vancho also requested a name correction in the same paragraph.

Site Remediation/NJ Groundwater Quality Standards: Gary Czock (NJDEP-SRWM) stated the FAQ for the GWQS were revised significantly with the addition of many new comments. Mark Feitelson (PTL) asked if the new lower limits are being enforced? Gary Czock replied that if it is a new site, the new limits are definitely enforced.

Vinny Marfinsky asked if there were any changes to the Soil Cleanup Criteria. Tony Pilawski (NJDEP-BPR) stated they are still under review.

New Business: None.

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: Nothing to report.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on July 13, 2006 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

Note: All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.